

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGRE-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EEC

SUBJECT: EC INDUSTRIAL STANDARDIZATION

REF: EC BRUSSELS 9723

1. THE EC COMMISSION HAS BEGUN AN EFFORT TO INCREASE MEMBER STATE RESPECT FOR COMMUNITY DIRECTIVES IN THE FIELD OF INDUSTRIAL STANDARDIZATION. THE COMMISSION RECENTLY INSTITUTED PROCEEDINGS WITH THE COURT OF JUSTICE AGAINST ITALY AND BELGIUM FOR NON-APPLICATION OF THE COMMUNITY DIRECTIVE OF FEBRUARY 1973 WHICH ESTABLISHED EC STANDARDS FOR LOW VOLTAGE ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT.

2. ACCORDING TO COMMISSION OFFICIALS, THIS WILL ONLY BE THE FIRST OF A SERIES OF ACTIONS TAKEN AGAINST DELINQUENT STATES WITHIN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS. THE COMMISSION CHOSE THIS PARTICULAR DIRECTIVE TO LEAD ITS ATTACK BECAUSE IT HAD THE BEST CASE ON THIS ISSUE.

3. OFFICIALS WERE RELUCTANT TO SAY EXACTLY WHICH STATES WILL BE AFFECTED BY THE COMMISSION'S INITIATIVE BUT DID SAY THAT ITALY WOULD FIGURE IN SEVERAL OF THE CASES. ITALY HAS ALREADY BEEN REPRIMANDED BY THE COURT FOR

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FAILURE TO ENACT NATIONAL LEGISLATION IN CONFORMITY WITH
EC COUNCIL DIRECTIVES ON CRYSTAL GLASS AND GOVERNMENT

PURCHASING (REFTEL).

4. EC OFFICIALS SAID THAT THESE MOVES SHOULD BE SEEN AS A NEW EFFORT IN THE COMMISSION TO MAKE SURE THAT COMMUNITY DECISIONS ARE CARRIED OUT ONCE THEY HAVE BEEN AGREED. UNDER THE TERMS OF COUNCIL DIRECTIVES, MEMBER STATES COMMIT THEMSELVES TO ENACT NATIONAL LEGISLATION WHICH FULFILLS THE AIMS OF THE DIRECTIVE. OFFICIALS DEALING WITH INTERNAL MARKET MATTERS HAVE BEEN FRUSTRATED BY MEMBER STATE FOOT-DRAGGING (FOR POLITICAL OR ADMINISTRATIVE REASONS) ON MAY OF THE 88 DIRECTIVES WHICH THE COUNCIL HAS ADOPTED IN THE FIELDS OF INDUSTRIAL STANDARDIZATION AND HARMONIZATION. HINTON

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